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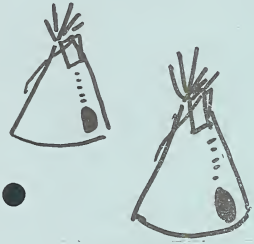
STATE DOCUMENTS

RELEASING HUMAN POTENTIAL

No. 27 1974

MONTANA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS



Blackfeet Decision-Making and the Political Process

Of particular interest to ten Blackfeet persons who came to Helena on February 15-16, 1974 were the Montana Historical Museum and a hearing of the Senate Education Committee.

This workshop, sponsored by the Blackfeet Community Volunteers and the Children and Youth Unit of the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, was made possible through a grant from the Montana Committee for the Humanities. Violet Butterfly, VISTA Supervisor on the Blackfeet Reservation, planned and directed the workshop assisted by Gerry Fenn and Clark Welch.

Topics and experiences included: Examination of HJR-59 which requests a plan for teacher education in the cultures of their students; Resources available from State Agencies; Current legislation of particular importance to Montana Indian people; Visits to committee hearings, the Senate and the House of Representatives; Implications for the political process of the American Indian religious heritage; "Desert Soliloquy", a tape recorded drama; and the Montana Young Historian's Project.

Instructors and consultants, besides those already named included: Senator Percy DeWolfe: Representatives Polly Holmes and Gary Kimble: Dale L. Johnson, University of Montana Archivist, Merle R. Lucas, State Indian Advisor; Dr. Marvin Shaw, Montana State University Associate Professor of Indian Studies; Dennis Taylor, VISTA Worker with Comprehensive Health Planning; and Wendy Visscher, Bilingual Education, Crow Agency.

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MACCY CONCERNS ARE VARIED

MEETING IN BUTTE AREA
May 10-11, 1974

Proposed focus is "Education: Including what's most urgently needed in Montana from pre-school through elementary secondary, post-high school, vocational-technical, higher education, alternative schooling and life-long learning.

HELENA MEETING
February 7-8, 1974

The effects of selected state agencies and the 43rd Montana Legislative Assembly were studied by the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth (MACCY) when it gathered in Helena February 7 and 8.

The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction were target agencies for special study by MACCY members.

To learn as much as possible about the status of legislation affecting children and youth was MACCY's goal. Members of the council are 50 per cent 25 years of age and under and 50 per cent older than 25.

Members met with Senators and Representatives from their own districts and attended committee hearings and House and Senate Legislative Assemblies.

They became acquainted with heads of the three agencies to which they were giving special study and followed legislation being supported and opposed by these departments. They talked with Frank Sennett, Deputy Director, SRS; Dr. John Anderson, Director, HES; and Dolores Colburg, Superintendent of Public Instruction. MACCY delved into the background and reasons for support or opposition of bills relating to these agencies.

MACCY also examined how these departments related to the state legislature and to the individual legislators.

Members closed their meeting by going to the Governor's mansion for a visit with Carol Judge, wife of Governor Thomas L. Judge.

MISSOULA MEETING
November 30, December 1 and 2, 1973

Topics included in the sessions were:

How to Bring About Constructive Change.

The Delinquent.

Constitutional Rights of Persons Not Adults.

What Should be the Statutory Rights And Protections of Children and Youth.

How does the Proposed "Montana Youth Act" Measure Up?

Interviews with Senators and Representatives of the 1973-74 Montana Legislature.

Strategy Sessions on the "Montana Youth Act', ERA Amendment, Environmental Issues, and Reapportionment.

Gearing Up for the Legislature.

Persons participating in the Missoula meeting numbered 68.

H.S. STUDENT STATE CONCERNS

In Helena, 26 Capitol High School students in an Advanced Childhood Development - Human Relations Class listed questions about children and youth rights, child abuse and adoptions.

At the request of Mrs. Sandra Barker, the teacher, Gerry Fenn and Clark Welch met with the class. Student's questions were taken up by means of a worksheet on Section 15, Article II of the new Montana Consitution and by a role play.

A 50 minute period was far too short!

BITTERROOT HOSTS RECREATION WORKSHOP

In Hamilton on March 20-22, 1974 Bitterroot 4-H people hosted a Recreation Leadership Training Workshop for the Western Half of Montana.

This training was provided for youth 13-18 years of age and their leaders in a variety of youth organizations.

On February 25, the planning committee met in Helena with Gerry Fenn and Clark Welch as consultants. Gerry, along with other resource people, assisted with the workshop which drew a participation of over 100 persons.

4-H CONTINUES CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR

In Mid-February 1974, the 4-H program again staged a citizenship seminar in Helena during the time the Legislature was in session.

Representatives came from 44 counties and included 58 young people and 15 adults plus staff. Use was made of the "Legislative Handbook for Montanans".

GREAT FALLS LAUNCHES INSTITUTE ON VOLUNTEERS.

Over 200 persons participated in a day-long institute related to volunteers held in Great Falls on February 27, 1974. This was sponsored by the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) and other community groups.

Among the five interest groups was one on "Creative Voluntarism" conducted by Gerry Fenn and Clark Welch with a total of 95 participants.

Techniques used to draw on the expertise, feelings and experience of the participants were: an "Ask Your Partner" exercise, role plays and small group discussions.

"KEEP" TRAVEL GROUP III GETS UNDERWAY

During the week of January 21, 1974 thirty members of Travel Group III of the Kellogg Extension Education Program (KEEP) had sessions in Bozeman.

Participants were enthusiastic about the session conducted by Gerry Fenn on the "Legilsative Process. This included delving into information in the "Legislative Handbook for Montanans" and role plays on how a bill becomes a law and a committee hearing.

These experiences were good preparation for the group's visit to Helena and the Legislature the following week.

12-Year-Old Girl Is Serving On Parks, Recreation Board

SAN ANSELMO, Calif. (AP) — In her first meeting as a parks and recreation commissioner, Atha Mathieu voted against poison oak removal, won a fight for a bigger community building and didn't get a bit bored.

The last item wouldn't be news, except that opponents of her appointment had predicted Miss Mathieu would lose interest, become distracted and fidget during the commission's lengthy budget sessions.

Atha is 12.

"I'm not bored," she declared Wednesday night during a recess in the meeting. Under review was a proposed $252,668 budget for the coming fiscal year.

And she managed to stay wide awake until the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m., well after her normal 8:30 p.m. bedtime.

Atha, a seventh grader, was appointed to the unpaid seat by the city council on a 3-2 vote March 12. She had written the council saying that "parks are for children and we need representation."

A middle-aged housewife with four children and two grandchildren was her only rival for the seat. It became vacant when one of the seven commissioners resigned.

The commission is an advisory body to the council in this moderate-income city of 12,000 persons about 20 miles north of San Francisco. Atha lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathieu, and her brother David, 10.

In her letter, Atha said she opposed women's lib "because they put up such a fuss" but said she supported "children's liberation." She proposed putting suggestion boxes in all schools to solicit ideas about parks and recreation from her peers.

At Wednesday's meeting, Atha wound up on the losing side of a 5 to 2 vote in favor of spending $360 to hire a man to tear poison oak out of a picnic area.

"We should just put signs on it so people will know," she argued.

But she had more success in convincing fellow commissioners to urge the enlarging of a planned community building from 2,000 to 2,500 square feet. After extensive debate, the final vote was 7 to 0 in favor of expansion.

Legislative Handbook

for

MONTANANS

It must be meeting an important need as 5,000 copies of the "Legislative Handbook for Montanans" vanished in less than three months.

A great variety of individuals and groups requested copies-both youth and adults. Copies were provided to several kinds of youth groups and to schools.

Others receiving copies included such groups as: League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, realtors, foresters, teachers' organizations, social workers, legislators and government agencies.

At the present time there is a backlog of 1265 requests and consideration is being given to a reprint.

In December, 1973 a copy of this handbook was sent to the "Releasing Human Potential" mailing list instead of the usual newsletter.

MONTANANS ACTIVE IN NCSCCY

WASHINGTON D. C.

Montana Delegates to the annual meeting of the National Council of State Committees for Children and Youth (NCSCCY) in Washington D. C. February 21-23, 1974 included: Kelly Addy, Shelby; Gerry Fenn, Helena; Linda Siderius, Kalispell; and Opal Winebrenner, Cut Bank.

Issues covered in the sessions were: Child Abuse and Neglect, Unwed Fathers, and Youth and the Juvenile Courts.

WHILE IN WASHINGTON...

Montana's NCSCCY delegates had consultations with Miss Jean Reynolds, Coordinator, National Center for Child Advocacy, Office of Child Development, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW)

And with Dr. Catharine Richards Director of planning, Research, and Development, Office of Youth Development, HEW.

Both women have been in Montana to assist with organization and programs related to children and youth.

Upon return, Gerry Fenn reported extensively on the anuual meeting during Rosetta Kamlowsky's "Scooter" Radio program in Helena. All Delegates prepare written reports.

National Responsibilities

At this meeting, Rod Newman of Miles City was elected Second Vice President of NCSCCY. Other Montanans carrying out national responsibilities are: Judi Birdwell, Miles City - Publications Committee Rick Davenport, Helena - Workshop Planning Committee, and Gerry Fenn - Nominating Committee.

Linda Siderius led a workshop on "Youth in Public Health" at the NCSCCY Technical Assistance Conference in Boston in April, 1974.

SAN FRANCISCO

Four Montanans were active in the Western Regional Conference of NCSCCY held in San Francisco, September 3-5, 1973. Judi Birdwell provided important ideas and skills for the youth session. Mary Anne Fisher, Helena, spoke to the group on "What Our State Does Best". Rod Newman served as a staff member and consultant for the conference and participated in the planning session held in Minneapolis. Don Petterson, Billings, served as a discussion leader.

MACCY FORMS "ACTIVISORS"

During sessions in Helena, February 7-8, 1974 the members of the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth (MACCY) decided upon a small group of persons who will have the right and the responsibility to act in behalf of MACCY. Those selected by the membership are:

Ruth Amdor
Roundup

Sister Antonea Tuss
Glendive

Lane Coulston
Missoula

Rod Newman
Miles City

Opal Winebrenner
Cut Bank

Dennis Roseleip
Turner

These persons will work with the staff and serve as a core planning group or steering committee.

"Activisors", as the group may be called, met for the first time in Helena on February 8. Next, they gathered in Billings on March 29 with Jean Reynolds of Washington D. C. as a special resource person.

Items under consideration were: functions, number and kinds of members, length of term, name, number and place of meetings and funds for meetings. The group also did some "Futures Planning" in relation to MACCY.

Jean Reynolds was asked to describe the Offices of Human Development, Youth Development and Child Development in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She related these to regional and State organization. She also reviewed some of her ideas and philosophy about State committees, councils or commissions. In addition she discussed the new Federal law on "Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment".

Clark Welch and Gerry Fenn briefly went over their staff activities since the last core group meeting. It was decided to meet next in Missoula on April 22, 1974.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW MACCY MEMBERS

Effective January 23, 1974 Governor Thomas L. Judge appointed these persons to MACCY: Lois Cann, Butte; Barbara Hauge and Dennis Roseleip, Turner; and Margaret Scheid, Lewistown.

HB - 628 *An act to acknowledge the existence of natural and potentially natural areas in the State and to provide for the protection of these areas.*

oOo

SB - 697 *An act to prevent discrimination in employment, public accommodations, education and real property transactions; to establish a Commission on Human Rights; to authorize the creation of local commissions.*

oOo

HB - 797 *Laws recommended by the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council were divided into two bills, HB-797 and HB-798. HB 797 is concerned with the general revision of laws relating to abused, neglected and dependent children or youth.*

oOo

HB - 798 *This bill passed the House and Senate with a number of amendments and was signed by Governor Judge. It's to be known as the "Montana Youth Court Act". Some people feel there's still much to be done to achieve a comprehensive code of laws relating to children and youth.*

WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE 1974 MONTANA LEGISLATURE AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

HJR - 4 *Ratifys the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to equal rights on account of sex.*

oOo

HJR - 47 *Directs the Legislative Council to study the feasibility of integrating into one state agency those administrative functions of state government relating to Human Resources.*

oOo

HJR - 59 *Instructs the Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents of Higher Education to devise a master plan for enriching the teacher training process in the area of ethnic studies.*

oOo

HJR - 67 *Requests the Committee on Priorities to assign the appropriate standing committee to conduct a study of the problem of providing and coordinating child development programs, specifically focusing on alternative three (3) of the 1974 Suggested State Legislation published by the Council of State Governments. Calls for a draft of any proposed legislation to be considered by the 1975 Legislative session.*

CHANGES! CHANGES! CHANGES!

-A REVIEW-

Under Executive Reorganization, the Montana Council on Human Resources was abolished and its functions given to the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).

In SRS, a Community Services Division was created and began functioning January 1, 1973 with Frank Sennett as Acting Administrator. Placed in this division were: Child Welfare Services, Family and Adult Services, Aging Services, Youth Development, 4-C's and the Children and Youth Unit (which provides staff assistance for the Montana Advisory Council on Children and Youth).

During 1973, the various bureaus and units of the Community Services Division moved to one location, 836 Front Street in Helena. The Children and Youth Unit moved from the Power Block to the new location on February 15, 1973. Ed Malensek replaced Frank Sennett as Administrator of the Community Services Division on November 1, 1973.

Throughout 1973, SRS was plagued by the uncertainties caused by the impoundment of funds due to Federal Regulations. This was not resolved until Congressional action on December 23, 1973 and the signing of the bill by President Nixon on January 3, 1974.

Staffing of the Children and Youth Unit was in limbo much of the time because of the funding uncertainties. This is the current situation:

October 1, 1973 - Clark E. Welch joined the staff on a full-time basis as head of the unit.
October 8, 1973 - Margale Westbrook became secretary.
December 31, 1973 - Opal Winebrenner's part-time position as student assistant was discontinued.
January 7, 1974 - Gerry Fenn went from full-time to a half-time basis, continuing as Community Planning Coordinator.

Liz Carpenter

I would like to see our polling places more crowded and our ballots more crowded with candidates not just for "higher office" but for those offices where most of the governing is actually done in America: the city council, the county courthouse, the legislatures and the school boards.

MACCY member Lane Coulston ran for the Board of Trustees of School District #1, Missoula. MACCY Associate/Consultants who filed for the 1975 Legislature include: Paul Richards, Helena, for the House of Representatives and Robert J. Brown Whitefish, for the Senate. Others are expected to announce their candidacy.

MONTANANS GO TO WYOMING GOVERNOR"S YOUTH CONFERENCE

Ruth Amdor, Roundup; Patricia George, Billings; and Clark Welch, Helena, took part in this Conference held in Cheyenne on March 31 and April 1 and 2, 1974.

The Conference was devoted to "Issues and Solutions" facing youth. Topics included: Exploring Values for Tomorrow, Rights and Responsibilites, Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Opportunities in Wyoming, Child Abuse and Neglect, Nonverbal Communication, Environment, Crisis in Schooling, High School Activities and What the Federal Government is Doing.

Montana was invited by Dr. Everett Lantz, Executive-Secretary of the Wyoming Youth Council.

YOUTH OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH PROBE JUVENILE PROBLEMS

Clark Welch worked with youth and adults to prepare for a session on "What Are Youth Problems in Montana?" for the State Assembly of Christian Churches held in Helena on April 27, 1974.

Experiences planned include: Involvement of youth with adults, card surveys, hearing-listening, small group discussion, panel discussion, posters and music.

PLANS UNFOLD FOR JUNIOR CITIZENS CAMP

The Board of Directors of the Junior Citizens Camp, held each summer south of Livingston, has met several times to plan for 1974.

Sister Antonea Tuss of Glendive and Rick Thompson of Lewistown are among those who are to return as Counselors. Clark Welch serves on the Board.

This Camp provides two weeks of intensive experiences for young people in trouble who are referred by various social agencies. The camp is sponsored by the Montana Association of Churches.

FUTURE HOMEMAKERS OF AMERICA HOLD CONVENTION

During a March, 1974 convention in Bozeman FHA elected the following officers: ShirLee Grove, Denton, treasurer; Lori Graham, Philipsburg, president; Debbie Smith, Bigfork, vice president; Melissa Lawrence, Glasgow, secretary; DeDe Ophus, Big Sandy, chairman of public relations; Susan O'Donnell, Baker, chairman of recreation; Jackie Hanley, Miles City, Chairman of music; Pat Wise, Belgrade, Chairman of projects; Vicki Taylor, Bridger historian; Nanette LeFabvre, Power, parlimentarian; Cheri Turney, Sheridan, ex officio.

STAFF ACTIVITIES ARE VARIED

During the fall and early winter of 1973, Gerry Fenn assisted with the State Baptist Youth Convention in Bozeman; discussed the proposed Montana Youth Act with the Board of Directors of the Montana Association for Mental Health; and spoke on "Home Economics and the Field of Corrections" for two Home Economics groups at Montana State University.

Clark Welch spoke at Meetings of the Helena Community Council; conducted a program for a group of Lewis and Clark County Extension Homemakers; participated in a public forum on "Political Power in State Government"; and was involved in a workshop at Havre on the "Social Concerns of Drug and Alcohol Abuse".

SEND THEM YOUR IDEAS

For the first time in history a subcommittee has been set up in the U.S. Senate specifically to deal with Children and Youth. Senators serving on this subcommittee are:

Walter F. Mondale, Minnesota, Chairman
Harrison A. Williams. Jr., New Jersey
Jennings Randolph, West Virginia
Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts
Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin
Alan Cranston, California
William D. Hathaway, Maine
Robert Taft, Jr., Ohio
J. Glenn Beall, Jr. Maryland
Robert T. Stafford, Vermont

Senator Mondale has prepared a major Senate speech on the American Family in which he outlines legislation he will introduce as a result of hearings held in 1973.

Proposals include comprehensive child development legislation, modification of tax laws, social security coverage for housewives, and establishment of a national council to formulate family impact statements in terms of existing or proposed governmental policies.

Sidney Johnson serves as the professional staff member for the subcommittee.

***

While in Washington, D. C. Montana's NCSCCY delegates visited the offices of Senators Mike Mansfield, Lee Metcalf and Walter Mondale and Representatives John Melcher and Richard Shoup to discuss children and youth concerns.

WELCH and FENN
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